

STAFF NEWS



Communicating with Professionals in Corrections and Parole

Governor Tours CRC Norco



Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger discusses the overcrowded conditions at California Rehabilitation Center, Norco, with Warden Guillermina Hall (r). The Governor and Secretary Tilton led a media tour of the facility on March 6.

California Summit for Safe Communities Convenes to Discuss Solutions Sex Offenders Housing

More than 400 state and local officials participated in the first-ever California Summit for Safe Communities March 19 to discuss the challenges that communities face regarding the release and placement of High Risk Sex Offenders (HRSO) and Sexually Violent Predators (SVP).

The summit was convened at the recommendation of the High Risk Sex Offender and Sexually Violent Predator Task Force, formed by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger in 2006 to re-

solve conflicts in finding suitable housing for sex offenders. It was one of a number of recommendations toward developing a statewide system to improve policies related to the placement, supervision and monitoring of high risk sex offenders in local communities to enhance public safety.

The partners organizing the summit include CDCR, the League of California Cities, California

Gov. Schwarzenegger Tours Overcrowded State Prison in Norco

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger was joined by Secretary James E. Tilton on March 6 when he toured the overcrowded conditions at the California Rehabilitation Center (CRC) in Norco, an outdated facility designed for 2,300 inmates that now has double bunking with nearly 4,500 prisoners.

Joining the Governor and Secretary Tilton were Kathryn P. Jett, director of the re-organized CDCR Division of Addiction and Recovery Services and facility Warden Guillermina Hall.

"This facility is like so many others throughout California with inmates living in gymnasiums and overcrowded conditions that are very dangerous for our staff and the inmates, with no room for important rehabilitation programs," said Governor Schwarzenegger. "If we don't solve the problem, the federal courts will release thousands of felons early posing a serious threat to public safety."

This tour followed a tour at California State Prison, Los Angeles on March 3, led by Secretary Tilton and CSP, LAC Warden W. J. Sullivan. Secretary Tilton has set an aggressive schedule to visit some of the most overcrowded prisons statewide, inviting media and local dignitaries to highlight the public safety challenge the

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Division of Adult Parole Operations Names “Employee of the Quarter”

The Division of Adult Parole Operations recently announced its award recipient for the 2006 third Employee of the Quarter — Parole Agent II Raymond Warren of the Sacramento Metro 2 Parole Unit.

Agent Warren was chosen because of his exceptional performance as the Assistant Unit Supervisor in a newly developed unit consisting of caseloads that include High Control Gang Members, Sex Offenders, and the Parole Intervention Team.

Throughout his 20 years with CDCR, the relationship Agent Warren established with peace officers and ancillary staff is second to none.

His continued resourcefulness and knowledge proved critical in the operation of the unit. Furthermore, the professionalism, personal pride, and

enthusiasm with which he performs his duties is commendable.

Agent Warren’s ability to manage the unit’s workload effectively has proven to be invaluable. As a result of his proficiency, gang activity within the Sacramento area has been curtailed and at-large parolees have been apprehended at a higher rate. The Division of Adult Parole Operations recognizes Agent Warren’s hard work and dedication and commends him for his commitment to our mission of public safety. Congratulations -- Agent Warren!



Agent Warren (r) accepts his award from DAPO Chief Thomas Hoffman (l).

Applications Being Accepted for Corrections Scholarship

The Association of State Correctional Administrators has announced it is taking applications for the **2007 Susan M. Hunter Corrections Scholarship**.

A scholarship review committee (composed of members of ASCA Past President Committee) will review applications from the children of corrections employees. Scholarships will be awarded in the amount of \$1,000 for undergraduate studies and \$1,500 for graduate studies.

Over the past three years, ASCA has awarded a total of 17 scholarships, 15 to undergraduate students and two to graduate students. The total number of scholarships awarded in 2007 will depend upon contributions received. However, ASCA anticipates matching the previous years’ awards.

Who is Eligible for the Susan M. Hunter Corrections Scholarship:

1. The student must be the son or

daughter of a corrections employee (current full-time, retired, or deceased) within an ASCA-member department of corrections (which includes the Federal Bureau of Prisons);

2. The student must be enrolled full-time in an accredited two-year or four-year undergraduate college or university or an accredited graduate program;
3. Incoming first-time freshman must have a minimum high school GPA of 2.5 and enrolled full-time students must have a minimum college GPA of 2.5;
4. Undergraduate students’ principle course of study may be in any field; and
5. Graduate students’ principal course of study must be in the field of corrections or criminal justice.

Please review the online application form and questions and answers

document for additional details. (These documents are available for download on the public section of the ASCA website at www.asca.net.)

Applications are due to the ASCA office on **April 13, 2007** (postmarked no later than April 12, 2007). The ASCA Scholarship Committee will make its decisions in July 2007. All applicants will be notified in writing, via a letter from ASCA. Scholarship recipients will also be announced at the Summer Business Meeting in Kansas City, Mo.

Submissions

Staff News publicize staff activities, innovative programs, and transmits important information to the rank-and-file. To this end, we need stories and pictures to be submitted for publication. Please send your submissions to:

CDCRnews@cdcr.ca.gov

Governor's "Reducing Recidivism Strategies Initiative" Funds Los Angeles Reentry Program

New CDCR Grants to Assist Parolees Reintegrate into Society

The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) announced March 9 it awarded the Los Angeles City Community Development Department a \$1.2 million multi-year Intergovernmental Partnership Program Grant to assist the reentry of parolees into the local community. Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger allocated funding for this program in the fiscal year 2006-07 State Budget through his "Reducing Recidivism Strategies Initiative."

"This grant is part of a broader effort by the Governor and CDCR to reduce recidivism by supporting local community efforts that provide parolees with life-skills needed to succeed after incarceration," said Marisela Montes, CDCR Chief Deputy Secretary for Adult Programs. "This grant to the City of Los Angeles is of one of 21 awards that the Department will issue to local communities to support collaborative and innovative reentry programs."



Mayor Villaraigosa (middle center) and Marisela Montes (center right) talk about the grant.

The City Community Development Department, in partnership with community and faith-based organizations and the Los Angeles city's Workforce Development System, will be providing intensive discharge planning services including case management, employment, mental health, substance dependence, and transitional housing services. Services are

aimed at assisting adult parolees to reintegrate into their communities.

As a pilot demonstration project, the initial focus will be linking ex-offenders, who have been trained in the state's Prison Industry Authority's (PIA) carpentry pre-apprenticeship program, with employment opportunities in Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa's South Los Angeles Construction ef-

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Family Support Day Conducted at Avenal State Prison

On Feb. 23, Phoenix House held its second Family Support Day at Avenal State Prison. Some 37 inmates participated; with 29 having a family member and/or guests participate in the event, with 42 family members/guests of inmates attending. The program began with the introductions of Phoenix House staff members.

A "welcome" was extended by Avenal State Prison Warden,

Kathy Mendoza-Powers and Phoenix House Vice President Manny Rivera. Several inmates were allowed to speak and describe their history of

drug abuse, and plans for attending continuing care upon parole. Each speaker, inmates and staff members, encouraged family members and friends to learn more about the continuing care phase of the Substance Abuse Program, and what opportunities were available in their parole regions. Representatives from SASCA (Substance Abuse Service Coordinating Agency) presented a presentation regarding services available for continuing care. This was a very successful event.



Warden Kathy Mendoza-Powers addresses inmates and guests.

HRSO..(From page one)

State Association of Counties, California Health & Human Services Agency, Assembly Member Todd Spitzer, the California Apartment Association, and the California Coalition Against Sexual Assault. Participants included representatives from cities and counties, local law enforcement, state agencies, mental health, social services, prevention services, and victims' organizations. The sum-



Governor Schwarzenegger laughs with HRSO Task Force Co-Chair Assemblyman Todd Spitzer.

mit provided an opportunity for these various constituencies to discuss issues and specific concerns about placement of sex offenders in communities, and to develop collaborative solutions regarding HRSO and SVP community reentry.

Governor Schwarzenegger was the luncheon speaker. The event also included presentations and panel discussions on issues such as:

- Notification of sex offender placement, processes for placement and importance of placement;
- Victim interaction with re-entry of offenders;
- HRSO Task Force history, and the status of task force recommendations;
- Sex offender management while on parole;
- The private housing market and the relation to housing sex offenders; and,
- Practices for ensuring effective notification and release.

“To better protect the public from sex offenders who are released after serving their prison sentences it is crucial that local community officials and law enforcement leaders are engaged

in decisions about where they will live,” said James Tilton, CDCR Secretary. “There are laws and policies in place that require sex offenders to return to their home communities when they are released.

This summit is one more step in building a partnership that will help to ensure these offenders are placed and monitored in a coordinated manner so that they pose the least threat possible to public safety.”

CDCR supervises approximately 10,000 parolees who are sex offenders, of whom about 3,200 have been designated high risk. However, those 10,000 parolees represent only approximately 10 percent of the sex offenders registered in the state. In addition to parolees, sex offenders also reenter the community through county probation and jail systems.

The summit was intended to educate the attendees on this population; build collaboration between state and local governments; develop alternative methods of identifying appropriate housing for sex offenders; and develop procedures that would incorporate opinions of local law enforcement. Sex offenders pose unique public safety problems, and are consequently subject to limitations and restrictions on where they can live, in-

cluding the recently enacted Prop.83, commonly known as Jessica’s Law. Under its provisions, sex offenders are prohibited from living near schools, parks and other locations where children congregate. The summit provided an opportunity for interested parties to discuss successful strategies and challenges for implementing this and other new laws.

“Sex offenders are rightfully under the biggest microscope and on the shortest leash of any group of parolees,” said Tilton. “Finding suitable housing for sex offenders will allow law enforcement to better monitor and supervise all sex offenders even after their parole term has ended.”

The HRSO Summit was one of a number of recommendations made by the taskforce that CDCR has already put into practice. Others include:

- Clinical evaluation of sex offenders within six months of scheduled completion of their sentences to identify those considered to pose a higher than normal risk to public safety;
- Advance notice to local law enforcement before a sex offender is placed in an area under parole;
- Use of the four-way “containment model” to supervise and restrict sex offenders on parole. That model includes strict supervision by parole agents, the use of Global Positioning Satellite (GPS) systems to monitor the movements of sex offenders, mandatory therapy and the use of polygraph testing during personal visits by parole agents.

Division of Juvenile Justice *Green Sheet*

Juvenile Parole Board Reconstituted

Career Academy at N.A. Chaderjian YCF Provides Options

By **CARRIE (CAT) WOMACK**

Parole Agent, Specialist
N.A. Chaderjian Youth Correctional Facility

The Career Academy is a voluntary program for students who have made a decision to change their lives, and redirect their behaviors toward constructive outcomes on the living unit, as well as in the classroom.

Since the start of the program in 2004, nearly 230 students have participated and graduated from the academy.

The input of facility staff is critical when students complete applications to enter the Academy.

If at any point during a student's assignment to the Career Academy one of the treatment team members, psychologist, teachers, etc., determine that the student should be removed from the Academy for disciplinary reasons, or any other reasons we can/will hold a Student Consultation Team (SCT) meeting to assess the students' viability for continued enrollment in the program.

As for inappropriate behaviors, failure to comply with the educational components of the program, or any other negative activity taking place in the Program Center, the Career Academy is a "school-within-a-school", "Career-to-Work" Program, which means that the student may be expelled from the program. However, every effort will be made to help the student redirect his behaviors in order for him to successfully complete the program.



Chuck Supple (l) is sworn in as Executive Officer, Juvenile Parole Board, by Secretary James E. Tilton, and congratulated by Division of Juvenile Justice Chief Deputy Bernard Warner (r). Newly constituted January 1, the Board is comprised of five Governor-appointed commissioners chaired by Chief Deputy Warner (including former BPH Commissioners who conducted youth hearings) who conduct parole, revocation and discharge cases for youth incarcerated and on parole within the Division of Juvenile Justice.

O.H. Close YCF Sponsors Super Bowl Tailgate

On Super Bowl Sunday, 36 Incentive "Level A" youth were invited to a "Tailgate party" in the O.H. Close Youth Correctional Facility Auditorium. A 51-inch television was placed on the stage for all to see their team (Bears or Colts) take the trophy.

The Level A's were allowed to enjoy the pre-game show and the entire game with fellow programmers from all living units. Obviously *FOOD* was a main attraction. The tailgate menu included hot wings, barbecue wings, corn dogs, potato salad, macaroni salad, nachos, potato chips and dip, cookies, and plenty of sodas. No one walked away hungry!

The young men loudly supported their team and taunted the fans of their opponents. Yelling, screaming, slapping, jumping and an occasional sprint down the auditorium aisle was the norm of the night. There was

excitement in the air, fun, laughter and some disappointment, but the activity was a success.

The Ward Incentive Level A wards wish to thank Superintendent Yvette Marc-Aurele for her encouragement and support to their achievements through personal acknowledgement and inventive activities.

James A. Wieden High School Donates to Amador County Operation Care

Operation Care of Amador County was presented with a \$332 check from the Preston Youth Correctional Facility James A. Wieden High School Student Council as a donation for their organization. Some 46 wards voluntarily participated.

Operation Care helps to provide temporary housing, clothing, assist with job placement, foster home placement, relocation and various other services and assistance to women.

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Career...*(From page five)*

Once a student has completed his GED, High School Diploma, and/or is working on college credits - he is then enrolled in a satellite class to a vocational class to learn job skills, obtain on-the-job training and/or obtain a certificate in their respective trades. The students who are preparing for their GEDs are also redirected to the GED class. The parole agent, specialist, transition teacher, and college coordinator oftentimes contact those students that are redirected in their satellite classes to return to the Career Academy, as needed to work on various components of transition. Oftentimes these contacts require anywhere from a few minutes to two hours depending on the availability and time of contact by the community resource persons, guest speakers, etc.

What makes the program unique to the regular school concept setting is that it is designed along the adult learning model, based upon the individual prescription for learning. To this end – the Career Academy Program Center is staffed with two multi-subject teachers, one parole agent, one office technician, and one college

coordinator. Also the instructors have the students broken into groups according to whether they are working on their GEDs, high school diplomas, college work, transition course work and/or transition plans.

Part of the orientation material that each student signs and agrees to adhere to, is to participate in the activities that are sponsored by the career academy and/or Transition To Success team, which include guest speaker presentations, activities presented by the Career Academy for the entire school, and is inclusive of the required Transition To Success educational component. The Career Academy's responsibility to the student is to assist the student with obtaining services from community agencies, which include colleges, financial aid, independent living resources, housing, medical and mental health, employment, community resources groups and/or mentors, public service projects, and social activities for the students, etc.

We also have living fish in the classroom, which the students take care of at the directions of the instructors. The students are also pro-

vided with a "Healthy Body - Healthy Minds" program on Friday evenings which allows the students to receive physical fitness training from a certified personal trainer. The program is also extended to the overall population as well.

An additional incentive component to the program is that each student who has successfully obtained either their GED, high school diploma and/or 16 college credits while housed at N.A. Chaderjian High School is eligible to receive a \$200 incentive award. The award is mailed to the student's parole placement, so it is imperative that each participant ensure that the parole placement mailing address and contact telephone number is correct.

The Career Academy has provided each living unit and the Administration with a poster outlining in a brief format the overall concepts of the program at each living unit at the institution. The program originated from a Federal Department of Labor-funded grant given to the Division of Juvenile Justice Education Services Branch in 2003.

CRC...*(From page one)*

CDCR faces.

"California's prison system is in the midst of a severe overcrowding crisis," said Tilton. "With more than 171,000 inmates, we have been forced to house more than 17,000 inmates on double- and triple-bunks in gymnasiums, dayrooms, and other spaces not intended for housing."

Currently, there are 335 inmates on waiting lists for 1,144 substance abuse program beds at CRC Norco. Overcrowded conditions force inmates to be housed in dayrooms and

gymnasiums, with general population inmates mixed together with those in Substance Abuse Program (SAP) areas, disrupting the rehabilitation process.

Secretary Tilton's tour of CSP, Los Angeles County was one of several stops planned through March and April to illustrate the effect inmate overcrowding has on efforts to introduce rehabilitative opportunities at prisons.

CSP-LAC currently houses 4,305 inmates with nearly 450 inmates liv-

ing in temporary "emergency" beds in dayrooms, gymnasiums and classrooms. These areas are designed for much needed rehabilitative activities.

"This severe overcrowding places inmates and prison staff at risk, and impacts our ability to provide rehabilitation programs to those who could benefit from them the most," said Tilton. "The Governor has proposed a comprehensive prison reform package that provides much needed space in our prisons for programs that

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CRC...(From page six)

will better equip inmates for a crime-free life after their incarceration. The causes of our prison overcrowding crisis are complex, and the solutions proposed by the Governor are comprehensive. Lawmakers must take action to ensure that inmates are not prematurely released before they have served their time."

This year, the Governor has proposed a \$10.9

billion building plan that would add 16,000 beds in state correctional facilities, build 45,000 local jail beds, and set aside \$1 billion for 10,000 medical and mental health beds pursuant to the Court Receiver's plans. The proposal includes a comprehensive reform plan that enacts Jessica's Law, California's new landmark initiative to protect children against sex offenders, creates a sentencing commission, and realigns resources to ensure the worst criminals are not a threat to public safety.

To reduce the 70 percent recidivism rate, the Governor's comprehensive plan also proposes an increase of \$41.1 million for anti-recidivism programs including drug treatment, job training and housing assistance. Additionally, the plan includes a \$50 million budget augmentation to increase the effectiveness of adult probation services in California, with a focus on 18-to-25 year olds. With an emphasis on rehabilitation, many fe-

male inmates at CRC will have a bet-



Secretary Tilton takes questions at the CSP, LAC press conference.

ter chance at staying out of prison under the Governor's plan. On Feb. 22, 2007, Governor Schwarzenegger met with legislative leaders in the State Capitol to discuss the next steps needed to move reform forward and relieve overcrowding in California's prisons.

Last year, the Governor proposed legislation during a special session of the Legislature that he called to confront the prison crisis. For CRC Norco, the overall plan would have made space for an additional 1,000 male inmates. The proposal would have allowed the transfer of 800 women inmates to other prisons or community correctional facilities where they would be closer to local resources, their families and their children. An additional 200 infill beds would have been freed up by converting and expanding the existing space.

After the close of last year's legislative session without consensus on a solution, Governor Schwarzenegger

issued an emergency proclamation for California's prison system, citing severe overcrowding as a threat to health and safety in 29 of the State's 33 prisons. The emergency proclamation allowed corrections officials to immediately contract with out-of-state correctional facilities to temporarily house California inmates. A court challenge recently stopped the out of state transfers of prisoners. That decision is being appealed so the transfers can continue.

Staff News

The Electronic Edition

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Grant..(From page four)

fort. PIA has the pool of trained, potential workers and Los Angeles has employment opportunities through its construction program.

"We would like to expand the use of partnerships with government and community-based organizations and the Prison Industry Authority to help set parolees and ex-offenders on the right track once they are released,"

said Chuck Pattillo, General Manager of the Prison Industry Authority. "It is much more cost effective for us to give inmates a skill in prison that will allow them to be tax-paying, productive members of society, than to just send them back on the streets to re-offend and return. I am optimistic that Los Angeles' pilot program using PIA-trained carpenters for city projects

might catch on across the state."

As part of his comprehensive prison reform package, Governor Schwarzenegger is proposing a \$41.1 million increase in funding this year, from \$52.8 to \$93.9, for anti-recidivism programs including drug treatment, job training, and housing assistance.

Wasco State Prison Opens Enhanced Outpatient Center

Wasco State Prison – Reception Center (WSP) recently activated a Mental Health Enhanced Out Patient (EOP) Center, located within Facility "B. Some 80 reception center

compass 10 inmates to a group, while supervised by trained professionals. The inmates participating in the program meet at least five hours a week.

Two doctors work together as the

fully. I am so proud of the staff – they are all working together. They are the one's that make it happen!"

Dr. Earl continued to say that WSP was working adamantly on in-

cluding this program for the EOP inmates housed in Administrative Segregation Unit and expected to begin this part of the program as early as April.

Captain L.S. McEwen, who oversees Facility B, was pleased with the smooth transition.

"Facility B maintains primarily mental health associated in-



Wasco State Prison Facility B Enhanced Outpatient Center Staff pose for a picture in the new center.

EOP inmates are currently being treated through one-on-one counseling, controlled medication, group therapy, and/or recreational therapy.

The program offers the inmates alternatives to violence by means of stress reduction, anger management, coping tools, preparedness for parole and reentry into the community. The group therapy sessions typically en-

case managers, psychologists, at the new facility. The center is supported with a staff of two psych-technicians, two social workers, and six correctional officers.

During an interview with Dr. Earl, who serves as one of the two doctors who manage the facility, she said "The inmates are responding well to the program and interacting wonder-

mates and I believe that this type of program is good for everyone," McEwen said. "The relationship between Mental Health and custody staff is outstanding and is directly related to the reduction of incidences related with the incarceration of mental health inmates; thereby making it a safer environment."